



Community Action Investment Program Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, & Kyrgyzstan

Quarterly Report (2nd Quarter 2004)

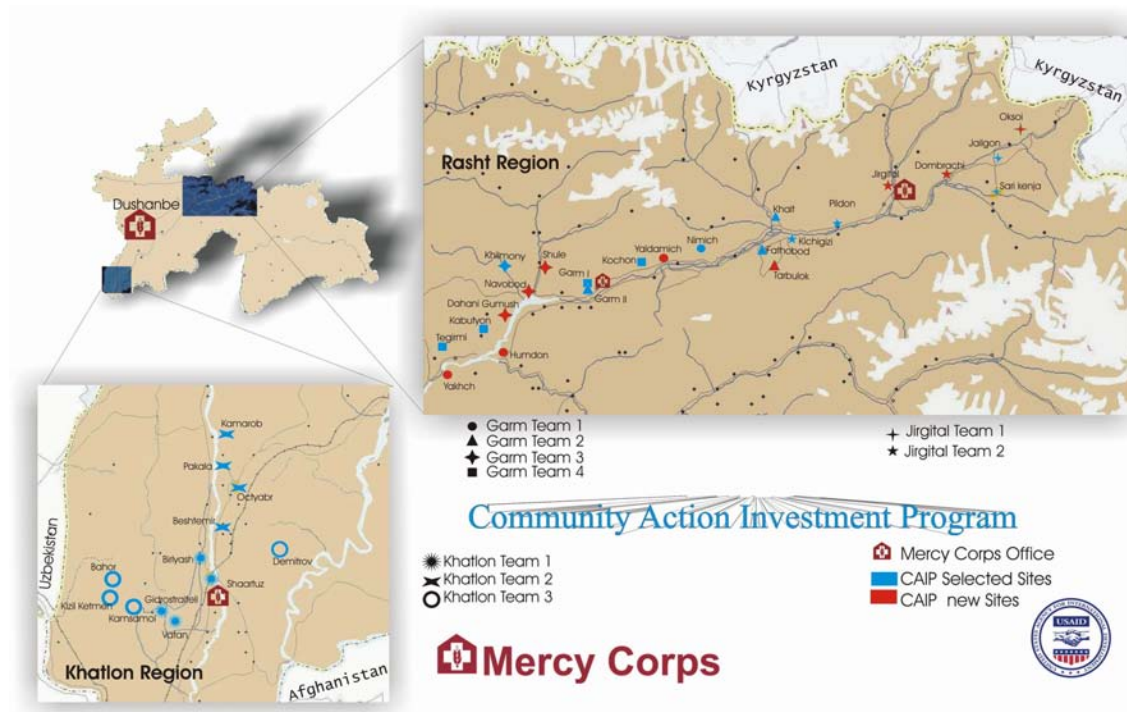
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CAIP Communities in Tajikistan



CAIP Communities in the Ferghana Valley (Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan)



Executive Summary

The Community Action Investment Program is a three-year Conflict Mitigation initiative, supported by USAID, and implemented in Central Asia since May 2002. CAIP strives to mitigate conflict in vulnerable regions of Central Asia by strengthening democratic and participatory processes within communities, providing community members the necessary tools to address sources of tension, which might otherwise lead to conflict. CAIP works together with communities to alleviate sources of tension directly by implementing projects to improve social services and to increase economic opportunities in those communities. Mercy Corps' CAIP Program Objective is to help prevent conflict by promoting broad-based citizen participation in targeted areas; resulting in improved standards of living, more active and engaged citizens, and more open, accountable local government.

Mercy Corps implements CAIP in three areas: the Ferghana Valley (Uzbekistan since the start of the program, and Kyrgyzstan, added in June 2003), and the Rasht Valley and Khatlon region of Tajikistan. During the first year and a half of the project, Mercy Corps has worked in 68 communities in 4 countries in Central Asia. Mercy Corps initially worked in Turkmenistan, but was forced to withdraw from the country in April 2004 due to lack of approval from the government of Turkmenistan. We currently work in 65 communities in 3 countries: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

As of June 30, 2004, Mercy Corps' CAIP has attained the following goals:

- Completed or currently executing 358 sustainable community projects (infrastructure and social), directly benefiting 649,247 people;
- Provided short-term employment to 1,612 people on community infrastructure projects; and created 50 long-term jobs;
- Leveraged \$1,065,725 of in-kind contributions to community projects, an average of 36% of total project costs.
- Established 65 democratically-elected Community Action Groups (one in each community), each with 8-12 members, an average of 25% of whom are women. These groups facilitate community-wide participation in decision-making, using techniques developed as part of the CAIP program;
- Conducted consensus-building workshops and numerous public meetings in each community, transferring skills in participatory methods to over 500 CAG members, which many have replicated in their own community meetings without Mercy Corps guidance. Over 6000 community members have been introduced to participatory methods during such community meetings;
- Introduced and strengthened advocacy skills in communities so they may obtain further support for community projects after the CAIP project ends, either from within or outside their communities. These skills help ensure the sustainability of community activities for the long-term.
- Conducted experiential training exercises with all CAGs, building skills in needs assessment, project design, project management, financial management, procurement, transparency and accountability, reaching over 500 CAG members and numerous community members;

Overall Progress Towards Targets (USAID-specified indicators, coded in Web-PRS)

Code	Description	Impact		Unit
1.1	Number of communities with CAIP projects	65		Community
1.2	Number of projects implemented without donor support	Dozens (Anecdotal evidence)*		Project
1.3	Percent of costs covered by community or local government contributions	Cash	In-Kind	Percent
		negligible	36%	
2.1	Number of projects maintained by the community	358		Project
2.2	Number of beneficiaries	649,247		People
2.3	Number of communities that tap into other USAID or donor programs in the region	10		Community
3.1	Number of people employed through community projects	1,612		People
3.2	Number of people employed after infrastructure project completed	114		People
3.3	Number of people trained	4000+		People

Progress per country

	TAJ	UZB	TKM	KYR	Total	Diff.
Communities						
Expected	35	26	10	4	75	
Achieved	35	26	0	4	65	-10

Projects						
Expected	170	113	0	8	291	
Achieved	257	101	0	6	358	+67

Beneficiaries						
Expected	182,000	135,200	0	20,800	338,000	
Achieved	388,737	252,500	0	8010	649,247	

Project Value						
Mercy Corps	\$963,172	\$871,187	0	\$31,199	\$1,865,558	
Communities	\$565,376	\$488,481	0	\$11,868	\$1,065,725	
Total	\$1,528,548	\$1,359,668	0	\$43,067	\$2,931,283	
% Community	37%	36%	N/A	38%	36%	
MC Budgeted	\$2,375,000	\$1,835,500	\$578,500	\$150,000	\$4,939,000	

Note about the figures in this report: The CAIP program was suspended in Turkmenistan in early 2003, pending national-level government approval. As of the time of suspension, CAIP had been working in three communities, and anticipated working in an additional seven. Mercy Corps officially withdrew from Turkmenistan in April 2004, leaving us with 65 CAIP communities in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan.

Progress During the Reporting Period

The three pillars of CAIP are these three Intermediate Results objectives:

1. Participatory and democratic processes strengthened at the community level;
2. Community social services improved through community action; and
3. Creation of sustainable and short-term jobs.

CAIP has achieved positive results towards all three of these IRs. Two years into the project, evidence indicates that participatory processes have been strengthened at the community level, community social services have been improved through community action, and short-term jobs have been created.

This report describes CAIP progress towards meeting each of these three IRs. However, CAIP takes an integrated approach to community empowerment with cross-cutting themes addressed throughout the implementation of each IR. Cross-cutting themes include: participatory decision-making, transparency among community members and with local government, inclusion of underrepresented groups such as women and youth, sustainability of infrastructure projects and of community action groups themselves (formal and informal), and continuous capacity-building. Implicit in all of these themes is the goal of conflict prevention by reducing tensions within communities which could lead to conflict.

CAIP's approach towards addressing these cross-cutting themes is described throughout this report.

Intermediate Result #1: Participatory and democratic processes strengthened at the community level

Empower citizens to take an active role in defining and fulfilling community needs, alleviating tensions that might otherwise lead to conflict.

Cumulative Results as of June 30, 2004

Expected Results over the 3-year life of CAIP:

At least 75 communities will be better able to cooperatively identify common problems, design and implement solutions through civic action and collaboration with local authorities and social service organizations. This process will strengthen local democratic processes through participatory planning, critical thinking/problem solving, accountability and transparency. As a result, community social capital is increased (generalized trust, community-based trust, and trust in institutions).

Cumulative Results (2nd quarter 2004):

During the CAIP expansion in summer 2003, CAIP completed its expansion into ten new communities in the Rasht Valley, Tajikistan, five new communities in Namangan Oblast, Uzbekistan, and started-up the program in four communities in Batken Oblast, Kyrgyzstan. This brought the total number of Mercy Corps CAIP communities to 68. Due to unforeseen difficulties with CAIP approval in Turkmenistan, Mercy Corps was only able to engage three communities there. In Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan, we are on target, with 65 total communities.

Number of CAIP Communities by the end of 2nd quarter 2004:

	TAJ	UZB	TKM	KYR	Total	Deviation
Expected	35	26	10	4	75	
Achieved	35	26	0	4	65	-10 (suspension of TKM)
Total	35	26	0	4	65	

Detailed profiles of CAIP communities are available at <http://caip.usaidcar.info/>

Profiles include basic demographic information as well as Mercy Corps' conflict rationale for selecting each community.

Highlight on Local Government and Community Advocacy

A key part of IR #1 is to empower communities to better advocate for their needs with local government, ensuring communities will thrive after the CAIP program ends. Mercy Corps has approached this challenge by first conducting intensive training on participatory methods, to foster constructive dialogs *within* communities. Previous reports have described the increasing strengths of CAGs in collective decision-making and project management with transparency and accountability.

As communities have grown stronger and more confident in selecting, designing, and implementing projects, they have also developed skills for collaborating with local government agencies in partnership on many of the projects. As the CAIP program enters its third year, we are seeing that this process has evolved into increased dialog with local government agencies, to the point where many communities are eliciting government support in planning and funding projects, often without Mercy Corps intervention.

Mercy Corps views this as an indication of increased trust and dialog between local governments and communities, thereby alleviating tension which might lead to conflict. It also indicates a shift in attitudes of the communities, who recognize that many government representatives genuinely intend to make improvements in social services through infrastructure. From the government's side, they view communities as viable, capable partners in the development process. In short, this increased engagement between communities and government has been positive for both sides. It is our expectation that this collaboration will continue after the CAIP program ends, thereby increasing the likelihood of sustainability for these communities.

The following are some examples of CAIP CAGS **advocating for their needs before the local government and succeeding without CAIP (Mercy Corps) intervention**. In many cases CAGs are implementing projects on their own, and are obtaining sizeable government contributions.

Since independence from the Soviet Union and the harsh economic climate that has resulted, small communities throughout Central Asia's Ferghana Valley have experienced a drastic reduction in services and support from their local governments. This has created an environment of tension and hostility between communities and government bodies. Mercy Corps' CAIP has made significant progress in reducing this tension through fostering mutual cooperation between the two entities in implementation of infrastructure and social projects.

Beshariq, Uzbekistan

As with most CAIP communities, Navbahor mahalla in Beshariq has seen positive changes in the community's sentiment towards the local government, and vice versa. During early phases of implementing a gas project that the community had chosen, the hokim was nearly unavailable for

support. And community members are so conditioned to being refused support from the government; they assume the worst before even making an attempt. "The hokim would not help. At first, he was not interested in the project at all," says Qurban Oshenboev, project manager, "In fact, we didn't even bother to go to him for help because we know he would say there was no money." But Mercy Corps staff and CAIP communities agree that government authorities who were once too overwhelmed to offer assistance, are responding actively to the more financially and logistically manageable projects that Mercy Corps has presented.

Kokand, Uzbekistan

This shift in trust and support between residents and local government before and after a CAIP project is a common theme throughout almost all of CAIP's communities. In Urganjibog' mahalla in Kokand city, community members say they received no support from the local government when they began reconstruction on their horribly dilapidated school. When the project was nearly completed, the community contributions and Mercy Corps' support were not enough to pay for pupils' desks and chairs, and the people persisted in appealing to the local government organs for assistance. Finally, representatives from the Oblast and the Regional Education Department visited the site, and were so impressed with the success of the project; they agreed to collectively contribute 8 million soum (\$8000) to purchase the new furniture for the students. "They only gave us the money because they had seen the great work we had done here," says one teacher.

The reduction in tensions between government and communities is only the beginning of the positive impact CAIP has had working in Central Asia. Abdulla echoes the sentiment of empowerment consistent throughout CAIP communities: "Our relations have improved, but we now know we don't have to sit on our hands and wait for the government. We can do this on our own."

Garm, Tajikistan

During a recent meeting with the Deputy Governor of the Garm District, several opportunities to develop collaborative partnerships with CAIP communities were identified. In particular, Mercy Corps and the Vice Governor discussed opportunities for collaborating on school projects in six CAIP core and cluster communities where the projects have been identified as top priority projects. Mercy Corps is already collaborating closely with local government on a school construction project in the CAIP community of Shule.

The opportunity to conduct joint projects is especially exciting for CAIP because the Garm Hukumat has, historically, been the most difficult to work with. While the principles and methodologies which Mercy Corps has so actively promoted in the Khatlon Oblast and Rasht Valley have been accepted and often adopted by local government in other Districts, in the Garm District the program has met with resistance. It is hoped that, during the course of this collaboration, relations with government in Garm will continue to improve and that opportunities for skills transfer between CAIP staff, Community Action Group members and local officials will arise.



Namangan, Uzbekistan

In Namangan, the poor condition of electrical power lines (and the total absence of electricity in some places) was a top priority for the community, because the lines that existed were

dangerous. During the implementation of a project to replace and extend power lines, the community action group was very active. After just a few months, the community started a project to extend gas pipelines on their own. At a regular CAG meeting Sotivoldiev Jalolhon boasted:

"We have been addressing the local hokimiyat for years, asking them to help us to extend the gas and water pipelines, to bring electric supply, but these were all unsuccessful attempts. While working with CAIP team we've learned a lot and decided to act in a different way. We've appealed to the hokimiyat once again, but this time with an offer, rather than with a demand. We have said that we need a gas supply and we can afford to purchase some of the materials, while the montage, welding and other physical work will be handled by the local workers themselves (as a part of traditional "hasher" collective work). All we ask from you is to help us purchase the pipes needed for project implementation. The hokimiyat chiefs liked the offer; they've supported us and delivered the needed amount of pipes. That's how we understood that we shouldn't be demanding for help, we should offer them a way to help us out, they definitely will come in for any aid asked."

Istiqbol, Uzbekistan

In February 2004 the CAG began working on the implementation of an electrification project in Istiqbol community. Simultaneously, the CAG decided to ask the local hokimiyat for assistance in extending water pipelines. The local authorities once again agreed on assisting the community in implementing a project that was successfully completed.

In May 2004 the CAG started working on a third project in Istiqbol community. At the same time, the CAG asked the chief of the Namangan regional telecommunications department to extend phone lines in collaboration with them. They prepared the rough draft of the estimation and calculated that if the trench is dug by the community residents, and if each household contributes 30,000 soum, the rest (purchase of cables, stands, installation of wells, payment for the specialists and workers) will be covered by the telephone department, so that 900 families will have telephone lines extended to their homes.

Within a year CAIP has implemented three projects in Istiqbol and has now begun a much larger project to asphalt the streets. **The community has also implemented two projects on its own, and has almost completed the third one, all of them with the support from the local government.**

Another achievement of the community worth mentioning is that it has finally revived a school construction project which was planned 10 years ago, but was stopped because of the lack of funds. This year, seeing all the efforts of the community residents on the CAIP project, the hokimiyat has finally disbursed funds for the school construction, so hopefully this year the school can open and start the educating children.

To'raqo'rg'on, Uzbekistan

Since August 2002, CAIP has successfully implemented two natural gas supply projects in this community. A third project to extend electric power lines has just started. It is a large project and as a result, the community contribution is also large. Completing the project requires the installation of 62 reinforced concrete stands, the extension of 8,510 meters of cable, and installation of an expensive electrical transformer. During the previous gas supply project, each household had contributed 95,000 soum in cash, not considering the in-kind labor supply, transportation expenses, etc.

Community residents did their part in the project implementation, and it seemed a little problematic to gather money for the next project right away. Mercy Corps suggested that the CAG members address the Regional Electric Department to help them purchase a new transformer. On June 15, 2004, one CAG member, Shokirjon Akbarov, visited the head of the electric department. Mr. Mirzajanov. At first, Mirzajanov was reluctant to help, but during the conversation, has become interested, and in the end promised to speak with his specialists.

On June 18, Shokirjon Akbarov again visited the head of the department and was very surprised to find that the regional electric department agreed to buy and install a new electric transformer (in amount of 7,800,000 soum) for the community. With the help of the regional electric department, the community contribution has risen up to 40.5% and has eased the overall financial burden from the community residents themselves.

Namangan, Uzbekistan

The CAIP Namangan team is working in five communities total. In four of them, CAGs are implementing drinking water projects. Projects dealing with drinking water supply are very difficult to implement, due to the necessity of special approvals, usage of new technology and equipment, required consultations from local specialists, and the approval of local government authorities that work in the area of water supply.

When starting two drinking water supply projects in Shifokor (Uychi) and Olmazor (Pop), CAGs were confronted with a lot of problems. They were struggling to get these projects started, so they appealed to the head of the Namangan Regional Drinking Water Department. With Mercy Corps' support, they arranged a meeting where they described the projects and explained the obstacles.

The very next day the head of the department himself traveled to the communities, visited the project sites, assigned a specialist for technical assistance and support, and sped up the approval process and other official documents in order to get the projects started. The bureaucratic wheels started spinning. After the estimation was prepared, the community again appealed to Dadabaev, this time asking for a financial contribution. After thinking for a while, he said that he'd help with the following:

- Assign a montage group for welding the polythene pipes (a brand new technology)
- Arrange transportation for the pipes' delivery to the community
- Conduct a mandatory chlorination of the extended water line for disinfection purposes
- Connection of the pipeline extension to the main source.

Key Lessons Learned in Obtaining Government Support

1. While conducting these types of projects, the communities have become convinced that the local authorities and state organizations are willing to help out, to cooperate. The problem is that the community residents haven't known how to contact these people; they didn't have the necessary communication skills, confidence to negotiate, etc. CAIP is building the skills of the community members to appeal to the government on their own.
2. Also, our experience over the last two years indicates that the community residents always addressed their problems to the khokimiyat, state government; no matter what problems they were trying to address. We've learned that it is much wiser to directly contact the government agencies that deal directly with these issues. For instance, if there a drinking water problem – ask the water department to help, lack of gas supply – gas department, absence of electricity – ask the electric department to assist, and so on. This approach has proven to be most effective.

3. As was noted above in Namangan, it is important to give government agencies specific options on how to assist, rather than to ask for general assistance, or worse yet, make demands.

Intermediate Result #2: Improved community social services through community action

Improve standard of living and empowerment in CAIP communities, which leads to a decrease in potential for conflict.

Cumulative Results as of June 30, 2004

Expected Results over the 3-year life of CAIP (including expansion activities):

Completion of 4-7 small infrastructure projects in 75 communities, for a total of between 300 and 525 projects. Over 392,000 beneficiaries (an average of 5200 per community) will have gas, electricity and/or similar services through the provision of improved infrastructure, human and physical resources, including improved community ownership and responsibility through existing or new associations, maintenance committees and users-groups/associations. Expenditures of \$37,500 to \$75,000 expected per community.

Results to date (2nd quarter 2004):

By June 30, 2004, CAIP communities have completed or are implementing 358 projects in 65 communities, reaching 649,247 beneficiaries. Total project value is \$2,931,283, of which \$1,065,725 (36%) is community match.

CAIP Infrastructure Projects Completed or Under Execution as of June 30, 2004

	TAJ	UZB	TKM	KYR	Total	Notes
Expected	170	113	0	8	291	
Achieved	257	101	0	6	358	Suspension of TKM program
Deviation	+87	-12	0	-2	+73	Fewer & larger projects in UZB

Details about specific CAIP community projects is available at <http://caip.usaidcar.info/>

Highlights of Community Projects

Khatlon: Environmental Campaigns in Nosir Hisrav District

With an aim to preserve and improve one of the most environmentally degraded district of the country - Nosir Hisrav, the Bakhor and Kizel-ketmen CAGs, Youth and Women Committees together with the District Natural Resources Preservation Committee held a series of environmental campaigns. The main activities included tree plantings accompanied by brief practical trainings on caring for saplings.

A total of more than 3000 people (youth, women, schoolteachers and children, dekhkon farmers, govt. officials, etc) participated in planting more than 7200 saplings along roads and farm plots. The project organizers established 7 groups named "Green Patrols" (30 people) for implementing and looking after the project sustainability. Saplings were specially selected for their wind, salt and blaze sun resistance qualities.

Following suit, the community of Komsomol has planned to hold a two-day long seminar entitled: "Sustainable ecological development" and "the origin, status and ratification in Tajikistan (1998) of the Arhus' Convention (4th conference by the Ministry of the Environment, Denmark, 1998). This will include the distribution of brochures on database information and a one day cleaning campaign of the Chilu Chor Chashma (spring) territory. The cleaning campaign is devoted to the International Day of Earth and includes participants from Kizel-Ketmen and Bakhor and surrounding cluster communities.

Community Initiatives in Evaluating a Project in Dmitrov

During a recent assessment of a drainage canal project, the Dmitrov Community Action Group (CAG) and Project Implementation Team (PIT) discovered that the project will have a much larger impact than originally anticipated. The assessment team determined that the drainage cleaning project will improve soil conditions for a total of 650 ha of irrigated fields in Dmitrov and surrounding cluster communities of Mikoyan, Faroghat and Chikalov. The project will benefit 237 individual farmers (members of 5 Dekhkon farms) and the total number of beneficiaries has increased from 1,137, the figure identified during the project design stage, to 4,500 community members. In addition, the project has united the four communities under a common objective, in essence eliminating the potential for conflict over the access to agricultural infrastructure.



CAG members discuss transformer project.

Intermediate Result #3: Creation of sustainable and short-term jobs

Improve standard of living in CAIP communities through increased incomes and job opportunities. Communities will be better able to meet needs from own resources, leading to decrease in potential for conflict.

Expected Results over the 3-year life of CAIP:

At least 75 communities will benefit from increased or sustained job opportunities and incomes through employment on infrastructure projects and participation in community economic development projects.

Short Explanation of CAIP Economic Development Component

CAIP began its economic development activities in the summer of 2003. Mercy Corps' approach to the challenging environment of Central Asia was to design a creative program with a diverse

menu of options, in order to ascertain the best approach to creating short and long term employment, increasing household incomes, and thereby alleviating a prime source of tension leading to conflict in the region.

The economic development component of CAIP seeks to create short and long term sustainable employment using a business development services model that is specially designed to address weak market economies. Mercy Corps acts as a facilitator with local institutions, schools, private businesses, associations, and others that provide services to micro and small enterprises (MSE). These providers assist MSE's in a number of key areas including:

- Market Access
- Input Supply
- Technology
- Product Development
- Training and Technical Assistance
- Infrastructure
- Policy and Advocacy
- Financing

Working closely with three microfinance partners (two in Tajikistan and one in Uzbekistan) and numerous associations, private businesses and others Mercy Corps supports the financial and non-financial needs of SME's. The ultimate goal of the project is to reduce the potential for conflict by helping SME's and their communities achieve higher economic growth, employment, reduce poverty, and meet social needs. Youth are a key target of activities including support of various training and vocational activities. While some activities are subsidized for a limited period a key aspect of the program is having left in place market driven service providers.

Key Aspects:

Market Driven-Sustainable

In all cases Mercy Corps economic officers work with the business and the provider of business services to ensure that the service being offered and the business are sustainable under market conditions. MC does provide some short-term subsidies to build awareness of a new product, service or technology but will in no case subsidize one business or entrepreneur over another. One example is our work with the Andijon Regional Farmers Association (Ziroat) the introduction of soil testing in CAIP areas would provide farmers with a key tool for increasing yields. Soil testing though is a relatively new and somewhat cost prohibitive activity for most farmers. To build awareness soil testing will be offered at a subsidized price to farmers with an exit strategy that allows for a movement toward full cost recouping by the association. The initial economic infrastructure grant to the provider (the farmers association) is based on a competitive process of selection for this service.

High Impact

Another key aspect of economic development activities is that they are high impact, meaning that the number of MSE's benefiting from each intervention should be substantial. Projects that have an effect on only a few in the impact group (MSE's) are not pursued. One excellent example is the Wax Paper Production facility via the Navobad Beekeepers Association. In this case hundreds and potentially thousands of beekeepers will benefit by having an essential production input. In addition to considering the number of MSE's to be impacted by the project MC economic officers look closely at the effect projects have on creating employment and improving other social conditions. In the example above 8 jobs will be created at the wax paper production facility in addition to the decreased expenses for honey producers.

Lastly, all economic activities are targeted at communities and groups that have demonstrated or potential conflict indicators. This has been accomplished through the initial site selection and by targeting the lowest income individuals and those disenfranchised youth that are not typically impacted by economic activities.

Mechanism-Methodology

MC CAIP uses a combination of financial and non-financial business services working with sustainable local providers. The business development approach is designed to provide the following vision:

- To improve micro-enterprise performance in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan as a means to achieve higher economic growth and employment and reduce poverty in communities where the potential for conflict has been identified.

This approach is illustrated in the diagram in **Annex 3**.

Non-financial services to support MSE's via credit partners

Facilitating a variety of local partners MC CAIP has increased the access of MSE's to a number of services that improve and expand their economic opportunities. This includes a full range of activities from training and technical assistance to technology, product development and market access.

Financial services in support of MSE's via MFI's

As of July of 2004 nearly 300,000 US dollars has been provided to hundreds of clients via three MFIs. This has included increasing access to credit in CAIP areas with the opening of new offices in Garm, Tajikistan, and Margilon, Uzbekistan and the addition of hundreds of new clients in CAIP areas. Credit partners have also developed new credit instruments and refined existing ones to fit the needs of CAIP communities.

The initial consideration for all projects is that market distortion is minimized (via and impact assessment) and that the impact group (MSE's) have one or both results: *increased income/profit or reduced expenses*. In all cases MC Economic officers ensure that if any non-credit financial incentive is provided that there is an open, competitive and transparent competition for these funds. For example in Rishton, Uzbekistan five master tailors were provided with sewing equipment for use in training new apprentices. The selection of tailors was community driven with a working group of CAG members, and community tailors setting the criteria for selection of tailor trainees and for the criteria of selection of the trainees.

Progress in Economic Development Activities

To date, the economic development component has completed or committed funds for:

- **27 projects in Tajikistan committing approximately \$325,000** in project funds of a budgeted \$295,000
- **21 projects in Uzbekistan committing approximately \$160,550** in project funds of a budgeted \$285,000

Project Breakdown by Type

Uzbekistan

Training and Business Roundtables:	Nine with 200 participants
Economic Infrastructure (Various)	Twelve
*Projects with a Youth Focus:	Five

Tajikistan

Training and Business Roundtables:	Twelve with approximately 250 participants
Economic Infrastructure (Various):	Fifteen
*Projects with a Youth Focus:	Three

*Youth focus is defined as projects that were designed specifically to involve or benefit youth and or have at least 50% youth participants.

Summary

Total Projects:	48
Total Committed Funds:	\$485,550 of budgeted \$580,000
Average Size:	\$10,115

Microfinance Results

Khatlon, Tajikistan

In the last year of the CAIP Business Development Fund the National Association of Business Women has provided loans to 132 entrepreneurs from CAIP communities of Shaartuz, Kabodiyon and Beshkent districts in total amount of 456,300.00 Somoni (equivalent of US\$ 153,100.00). Entrepreneurs are continuing to submit loan applications to NABWT. The original contribution by MC CAIP was \$150,000 this capital has been disbursed and loans are now being made from repayments.

Raasht Valley, Tajikistan

In the last year of the CAIP Business Development Fund, ORIYON has provided loans to 152 entrepreneurs in the total amount of \$100,200. Loans have been made in the areas of agricultural production, animal husbandry, poultry, processing, services business and commercial activities. The original contribution of MC CAIP to microfinance in Raasht was \$100,000 this capital has been lent and new loans are now being made from repayments.

Ferghana Valley, Uzbekistan

In the last year of the CAIP Business Development Fund, Barakot has provided loans to 43 clients from CAIP sites have received group loans in the total amount \$8,560. Barokot has recently introduced an individual loan product. While the pace of lending through Barakot has been slowed by regulatory and legal constraints it is expected that a substantial amount of lending will occur in year three of the project. The total commitment to lending in Ferghana Valley will be determined by the demand for loans and the comparative impact of lending to other interventions.

Project Totals for Microfinance to CAIP Micro and Small Enterprises:

Total Clients:	327
Loans:	\$261,860
*Projected Employment:	490 new long-term jobs
*Verified Employment:	50 new long-term jobs

* Projected employment is taken as an average from the loan applications submitted by clients ongoing monitoring visits to clients verifies rather this employment has resulted. To date the average jobs created per loan is 1.5 jobs. The accuracy of this estimate will increase as economic officers continue to visit businesses. Also note, this figure is separate from the total jobs created via community projects as reported in Web-PRS.

Job Creation via Economic Infrastructure (Non-financial)

As on overall project CAIP has produced numerous short term employment positions in the construction of infrastructure projects. The benefit to communities and families of the welders, day laborers, project managers, and various other technicians is economically significant. The economic development component also produces a similar variety of short term employment through its partners creating employment for trainers, loan officers, camp managers, counselors and others who work with MC partner organizations. (The two youth forums/institutes alone have provided hundreds of youth with short term salaries and job skills applicable outside of project activities) As on overall project a rough estimate of direct project related employment averages approximately 1.8 short term jobs per implemented project. This also discounts the effect of CAIP activity on the periphery the positive impact on contractors who implement many projects is difficult to measure but they are direct beneficiaries of the CAIP investment.

Measuring and creating long term employment though is the particular challenge to CAIP and particularly economic development projects. Yet, as we move into year three results are now becoming apparent. In a survey of the currently completed economic development projects from both countries (*excluding the above estimates for microfinance*) the number of long term jobs created is between eighty and one hundred. Examples include the Takalik fruit drying and sewing center that has produced fourteen jobs including 11 new tailors (two who will be instructors), a manager and two fruit dryers, in Navobad the wax paper production facility will provide at least three new jobs. Other long term employment comes in the form of new businesses started by youth entrepreneurs, and as a result of bazaar expansions in Garm and Shaartuz. Future projects in areas such as greenhouses, fruit drying, and others are also expected to produce direct employment.

It is important to note that Mercy Corps approach is based in long term economic sustainability and this requires a variety of interventions that will not always lead to immediate employment opportunities. Creating these economic building blocks and supporting enabling environments is a significant contribution that may not be reflected quantitatively but is absolutely necessary to correct the economically devastating factors present in many areas. For this reason Mercy Corps has avoided artificially construed interventions that create instant employment but that do not meet requirements for long term viability.

Success Highlight: Young Women's Business in Takalik

The community is conducting three employment skills-development activities selected by young people in the community: 1) sewing and marketing skills for young women, 2) fruit-drying, and 3) word-working. Equipment has been purchased which will become joint property of the school and mahalla, provided for use in the school annex, and supervised by experienced professionals in each of those three fields.

As of the end of second quarter 2004, a sewing skills workshop has trained over twenty young women in tailoring including a market study and small business management. In July the sewing workshop was officially opened and will continue to conduct classes for young women in tailoring and small business management. The sewing workshop has also been registered as a

cooperative business so it will be self sustaining while also remaining a part of the school. A second group of young women have already signed up to take the class in the fall and a teacher will be supported by a small fee paid by each student. Local trainers were used for all activities and a teaching manual is now being developed for use in this and other area schools.

In May of 2004, a fruit drying oven and two packaging machines were delivered to the school annex. A group of young men and women have been formed will have received basic training on the use of the equipment. The students with adult mentors are now preparing a plan for use of the equipment. Mercy Corps expects to provide a small amount of seed capital this fall to purchase fruit, as well local farmers have promised to provide additional fruit from their own harvest. In the next few months training activities will focus on developing products that can be sold in the winter months when fresh fruit is not available. A secondary goal of the project is to introduce fruit drying to the community farmers by the work of the young people at the school. At present a major problem for farmers is spoilage and waste of melons and other crops. Fruit drying can offer an attractive value added alternative for farmers and provide increased incomes. This fall will be an important learning experience for the youth and for their adult mentors. The fruit drying equipment and workshop will become a permanent part of the school and an optional course for students. (It is expected the fruit drying will be a self sustaining activity preventing additional expenditures from the school district.)

The Takalik community has been an excellent example of how improved infrastructure and cooperation with existing institutions can improve economic viability. Improvements in the electricity system at the school allowed the introduction of these two economic opportunities. The addition of gas to the community has also had noticeable effects on the ability of residents to sustain a higher quality of life and to increase income producing activities such as baking.

Success Highlight: Mamadiev Rahmatullo: "Cattle breeding is my hobby since childhood"

Mamadiev Rahmatullo, 32 years old, is married and has 2 children. He lives in Shaartuz, Tajikistan, and is engaged in the cattle breeding business. His father and elder brothers were engaged in animal industries and they had a butcher shop. Therefore he knows this business from childhood. He applied for a BDF loan, participated in NABWT business training, and received a loan in the amount of 3000 somoni (US\$ 1,000.00). He bought 3 bulls and feed for them. His wife, who was unemployed, helps him in his business. He says: "I feed bulls for two months and sell them in the local market. I receive 100 somoni (US\$ 33.00) profit from each bull. I want to emphasize, that the business training was useful for my business planning. I know many entrepreneurs who received BDF loans whom I meet in the market, where we exchange information, give each other advice on the selection of healthy cattle, animal diseases, vaccination, price, etc."

Success Highlight: Round Table discussions on Employment Law in Shartuz

In an effort to raise the awareness of Shartuz citizens about law related to employment, the District Employment Center held a one-day long round-table discussion entitled: "Employment Law". Over 40 participants, including representatives from the CAG, Youth and Women Committees, governmental and non-governmental organizations (Chashma, Khamdilon, Nurafshon and Hamroz), mass media, the Hukumat and Jamoat, heads of Employment Centers from Khatlon Oblast (Kurgan-Tube), Shartuz, Kabodiyon and Nosir Husrav, participated in the workshop.

The round table discussion resulted in developing plans for coordinating, updating and sharing information transparently about available job vacancies and the rights and responsibilities of employees and employers. Similar discussions have been planned for other communities in the Shartuz District. Following the round table, the District Employment Center installed four information boards in the community. Khatlon TV reported on the event.

Cross-cutting Objectives

USAID designed CAIP with two cross-cutting objectives: Conflict Mitigation, and the Inclusion of Youth. Each of the three Intermediate Results is united under these two common themes, and all Mercy Corps' CAIP program activities incorporate strategies directed at meeting these two cross-cutting objectives.

Sources of Conflict Mitigated in Target Communities: Success Highlights

Uzbekistan: Namangan Istiqbol community: Quote from CAIP team member:

"There have been some reports about religious extremism in the community, and a number of residents have been incarcerated in prison over the years. In fact, one of them had been in prison for 6 months, and after he got released (with no proof of guilt), he was afraid of doing anything, couldn't force himself to work or participate in community social life. When CAIP started its program in the community, he became a CAG member and later on turned out to be one of the most energetic and active members of the community, so he's sort of regained himself back. He is always in charge of community mobilization, and recently was chosen to be the manager of the second project, "extension of electric power lines". He's very respected among people. As he said recently, he's happy with the work he's doing right now, but hopes that the government won't find any malicious intents in his activity to imprison him again, since he's collaborating with American organization. Considering that those citizens who once were considered to be members of extremist groups now trying to lay down and disappear in masses, the actions that this man is taking, proves him to be on a right way to improvement, and that he has nothing to hide behind."

Human Rights Seminar – Improving Awareness in Gidrostroitel



Due to the lack of familiarity with human rights afforded by the Tajik government, the Gidrostroitel CAG took it upon themselves to organize a seminar entitled: "Improving Awareness about Human Rights".

More than 200 people of varying backgrounds and from different communities within the Shartuz district participated in the seminar. Participants included: youth groups, women committees, health workers, local businesspeople, local government officials (Hukumat, Jamoat Officials, Officials from the Department of Internal Affairs and the Department of Migration). The

seminar focused on the topics of: "Human Rights", "Rule of Law", "Labor Laws", and "Law and Education". In addition, Tajik and Russian migration laws were touched on. The event provided local government and community members with the opportunity to discuss human rights in an open forum, thereby alleviating tension that exists between the government and local community members. Mercy Corps will encourage other CAIP communities to undertake such initiatives in the future.

Kyrgyz Culture Days in Kabodiyon

Following the President's decree on the celebration of the Kyrgyz Cultural Day in Dushanbe, Gissar and Rudaki districts, the Kobodiyon Hukumat and CAGs also initiated similar festivities in the community of Octyabr. The cultural events included speeches and a concert performed by a musical group consisting of Kyrgyz, Tajiks and Uzbeks. The event took place in the youth and culture center previously rehabilitated with the assistance of MC CAIP.

It is hoped that the event will significantly improve relations between the Kyrgyz and the Tajiks which have suffered due to clashes between the two groups over access to irrigation water and other resources during the Civil War.

CAIP Integrates Internally Displaced Persons in Bahor

Following increased efforts made to expand MC CAIP activities beyond the CAIP core communities, several cluster communities have been identified as recipients of funding to implement diverse infrastructure and social projects in their respective communities. This process has uncovered a couple of unique projects organized by the Bahor Community Action Group (CAG) with the intent of preventing future conflicts at the community and cluster levels.

After conducting a project identification and prioritization workshop facilitated entirely by the Chief of the Bahor CAG, the Tulaganov community, a community comprised of Internally Displaced Persons from the Pamirs and Kuliab Regions, is currently implementing two projects: the Rehabilitation of a Transformer and Electric Lines and the Cleaning of Drainage Canals. Additionally, the community of Beshkent 2, another Bahor cluster, is conducting a three-week long Social Project entitled "Summer Camp for Children" (Pamiris). It is hoped that these activities will noticeably improve the relations between internally displaced citizens and the local Uzbeks population, in turn developing relationships between two groups that have been clashing over scarce resources (water, energy and land) associated with increased population and ethnical/regional rivalry.

Regional Pump Irrigation Project Calms Nerves in Jirgital and Surrounding Communities

When Jirgital community members met two months ago to identify projects which would alleviate tension within their community and between Jirgital and surrounding communities, the community quickly came to a consensus. Inequitable access to both drinking and irrigation water has been a constant source of discontent among the population in the Jirgital region- with incidents involving physical violence occurring with increased frequency due to the existing infrastructure's inability to serve the needs of the growing population.

In an effort to alleviate tensions in Jirgital over access to irrigation water, the Jirgital community identified a project to develop a pump irrigation system to address the needs of Jirgital and CAIP cluster communities. This system, which will require a bore hole to be dug and the installation of a pump, will benefit 4,600 residents in the communities of Jirgital, Karchin and Maidon Terak. The irrigation system will supply farmers with the means necessary to irrigate their fields and improve their harvests.

The project, which is in the beginning stages of implementation, has already required extensive collaboration with local government. During the course of the collaboration, the local Jamoat and Hukumat have agreed to supply a transformer- valued at close to \$2,500, telephone poles, metal pipe, and the community has committed to providing a large portion of the labor necessary to complete the project. In addition, three long-term jobs will be created through the employment of the irrigation system's maintenance workers.

Not only will the project have a significant impact on relations between communities but the project will also influence economic development in the region. With reliable access to water, farmers can produce greater yields of potatoes, apples, pears, as well as other fruit and vegetables, with less effort required. These yields, it is hoped, will place families in a better position to, not only provide for themselves, but also generate some income through the sale of produce.

Inclusion of youth: Success Highlights

Regional Youth Forum in Shartuz:

Following the National Youth Forum which took place in Dushanbe, Khatlon youth, together with the Mercy Corps CAIP Youth and Women Involvement Officers, developed a joint plan to hold a regional youth forum in Shartuz. The Forum took place in Chilu-chor Chashma and more than 70 people participated. Qualified trainers were invited, including the Chilu-chor Chashma Mullo who spoke on religious extremism. Khatlon TV covered the event.



As a result of continuous efforts made to encourage youth to take the lead in youth specific activities, two youth representatives from CAIP communities facilitated two of the sessions entitled: "Participation of youth in community life, with an emphasis on young women" and "Youth Mentorship activity". Other topics discussed included: "CAIP activities in Tajikistan", "Youth role in CAIP", "Youth in Economic Development", "Religious Extremism", "Problems of Self-immolation" (supported with video and skits)" and "Volunteerism". There are plans to develop similar forums in the near future.

Youth Unite in a Mercy Corps CAIP Regional Forum in Rasht Valley

In a follow-up to Mercy Corps' CAIP Youth Forum in Dushanbe and the Shartuz Regional Youth Forum, youth from Rasht Valley CAIP communities met in Novobod for trainings and interactive activities put on by Mercy Corps' CAIP and Water and Sanitation Programs. The focus of the forum was to facilitate a discussion among youth about their involvement in CAIP projects and programming and provide trainings in the areas of hygiene and sanitation and leadership. Nike supported the event by providing all the youth participants with uniforms, baseball hats and sweat suits. In the evening, CAIP youth played sports and other games and were given ample opportunity to get to know each other.

Youth agreed the forum encouraged them to give more thought to their role in the development of their communities and participation in CAIP youth activities. However, more than anything the youth with take away the friendships they were able to develop with peers from other regions in the Rasht Valley.

Challenges and Opportunities

Involvement of Women

In the deeply conservative Ferghana Valley of Central Asia, women's roles in their communities are mostly limited to traditional household and agricultural work. Rarely, if ever, do they

participate meaningfully in local community meetings or vote for their representatives. Voiceless in the political decision-making, women's issues are left unaddressed by community leaders. But they have found a voice and a forum in the Community Action Group (CAG). CAIP strongly encourages women's participation in projects, teaches community leaders about the importance of women's roles and is achieving great progress in helping women gain more respect in their male-dominated communities. The number of women members of the CAGs ranges from three to five out of ten to twelve total members, rivaling, if not surpassing, any governing body's ratio in the West.

Almost all community members, both men and women, state that women play a critical and valued role in the decision-making of the CAG organ. "Why do you think we build schools and community centers?" one man joked. "Men would only asphalt the roads." Whether this is evidence enough is left to judgment, but the fact remains that women's voices are well-represented, and they do play major roles in implementing the CAIP projects, usually, equal to or greater than the men. "Women have the same voting rights as men in our CAIP meetings and did as much to implement the project as men," CAG member Matabar Rahimova, a woman, says. "No. More than men. Much more."

Women are involved in every aspect of the projects in most communities from inception to completion. And they have taken initiative from what they have learned from Mercy Corps by creating their own independent programs outside of the main CAG. Some women in Urganjibog' mahalla in Kokand city, for example, hold explanatory meetings for other women in the community to keep them abreast of issues the CAG is discussing. In many communities, the women were responsible for each piece of the project outside of the physical labour. Some of their most common responsibilities are traditional roles for women in Central Asia such as cooking and cleaning, but their roles are much more multi-faceted. Women are responsible for collecting community contributions, mobilising the community and rallying the youth. "Women are the motivating factor in getting all of this done," one male community member in Furqat says. They are also responsible for organizing the opening ceremonies for hundreds of attendees when a project is completed.

Involving women in the conservative culture of Central Asia can be challenging. In some communities, women and men are very uncomfortable when they have to meet together in one room, so CAIP community mobilizers have worked with the communities to form women's councils where needed—basically groups of women who meet together and advise the CAG on women's issues. These councils have given women a forum where they have their concerns voiced and represented in an environment that they feel comfortable in. For the first time in many CAIP communities, men and women consistently work together in an official setting to discuss and solve social and political issues. Through these councils, CAG membership, and the enormous amount of work they take on during implementation of CAIP projects, women are fast achieving more responsibility, representation and respect within their communities.

Regional Women's Forum in Shartuz

Sixty-one women participated in Mercy Corps CAIP's first Women's Forum held in Shartuz. Facilitators of sessions during the forum included representatives from local NGOs and the Ministry of Health. Topics included: "The Reproductive Rights and Health of Women"; "The Role of Women in CAIP"; "Participation of Women in the Public Life of Communities", and "Women and Economic Development". The event was such a success that the participants were eager to organize another forum for women which will take place in September and will focus on the following themes: "Self Immolation"; "The Role of Women in Islam"; and "Women and Business".

Collaboration with ZdravPlus on Model Village Concept

In response to a USAID request for the development of a “model village”, ZdravPlus in collaboration with Mercy Corps-CAIP, proposes to identify a village in either the Ferghana or Andijon Oblast in which to introduce a comprehensive program to address diarrheal disease. ZdravPlus and Mercy Corps have been working together informally over the past year on a number of projects including the School Health Program; training of Health Centers on hygiene and sanitation in CAIP communities; and mutual consultations.

Please see **Annex 2** for a description of the Model Village concept.

Turkmenistan

After a long effort to obtain government approval for CAIP in Turkmenistan, CAIP was unsuccessful. USAID and Mercy Corps together decided that CAIP would withdraw from Turkmenistan.

Annex 1: Success Story



Community Action Investment Program (CAIP)



Reviving the Tradition of Community Action

Mercy Corps' three-year USAID-funded Community Action Investment Program has been integral to the revival of the nearly extinct cultural tradition of *hashar*, or community volunteer labor. *Hashar* is the Central Asian response to the West African *Harambee*, or the proverbial barn-raising in Amish American communities. For centuries, it was the way things got accomplished in Central Asia, but most locals say it has long been dead. In a time of economic stagnation when the state is unable or unwilling to assist, organizing the people to construct their own infrastructure projects has been a distant dream, unachievable without proper financial means or assistance from the government. "People had no hope that they could better their situation on their own," one community member put it. Qurban Oshenboev, Community Action Group (CAG) member of Navbahor Mahalla explains it this way: "During the Soviet period, everything was centralized and done by the state. People would have never taken on these sorts of projects on their own. Now, Mercy Corps has given them the *tolchok* (little shove) that they needed to take action." Madaminjon Madumorov of Katta Tagob mahalla adds, "These projects are our own, and the people will respect the result more when they know they have built it on their own, not because the state told them to." The reactivation of *hashar*, sparked by the CAIP program, demonstrates the renewed sense of community empowerment that develops as community members invest in projects they themselves select, design, and implement.



In every CAIP community, the projects rely heavily on *hashar*, with men contributing free labor, women providing the food for the workers, and children helping to run errands and clean up project sites after school. "It's easy to organize our people when we have the will. We all live close to each other and have good community," Juraboy Akbarov in Urganjibog' says. In his mahalla, he estimates there were about thirty people at the *hashar* every day during construction of a sewerage system. In

Beshkapa, after completion of their road construction project, they decided they wanted to add more. They quickly rallied and mobilized the community to add another 300 meters of road—completely independently from Mercy Corps—for a total of 2400 hundred meters in one month's time. In Novoylik, during construction of their community center, they decided to make an addition, and are in the process of doing so, after the community agreed to collect the money and work even harder to complete it by the New Year, again, independent of Mercy Corps' assistance. There are numerous similar stories of community's being given an inch and taking a mile.

Therein lies the success of Mercy Corps' helping to resurrect the idea and the action of *hashar* through CAIP. The community members either add to CAIP-sponsored projects or now talk of implementing projects on their own in the future after Mercy Corps has completed their work. Communities talk of humble projects they are undertaking or will undertake to further benefit

their mahallas. Madaminjon says, "We envision a beautiful future for our community—with telephone lines, a medical clinic and a gymnasium." As a result of their involvement with CAIP, community leaders are happy with what they have completed, but they are certainly not content. They want more and more and they are intent on achieving their goals, whether or not they have the help of international donors. This is one of the greatest benefits of CAIP's projects in Central Asia. This aspect of the sustainability of the projects takes no repairs or upkeep, as it is found within the people themselves. They simply needed the 'little shove' to get them inspired again.

Annex 2: Model Village with ZdravPlus



Community Action Investment Program (CAIP)

MODEL VILLAGE CONCEPT PAPER

SUMMARY

In response to a USAID request for the development of a “model village”, ZdravPlus in collaboration with Mercy Corps-CAIP, proposes to identify a village in either the Ferghana or Andijon Oblast in which to introduce a comprehensive program to address diarrheal disease. ZdravPlus and Mercy Corps have been working together informally over the past year on a number of projects including the School Health Program; training of Health Centers on hygiene and sanitation in CAIP communities; and mutual consultations.

BACKGROUND

DIARRHEA IN UZBEKISTAN

According to Ministry of Health, 1.8 million people in Uzbekistan experienced episodes of infectious disease in 1997 of which 70% were diarrheal diseases (including salmonella, hepatitis A, and dysentery) (Pappas and Sharman 2001). The primary mechanisms for the spread diarrheal diseases in Uzbekistan are likely due to lack of good-quality water as a result of deterioration of water treatment facilities and distribution systems, and from lack of proper sanitation in many regions (Karimov, 1998). [NOTE: We are waiting for a report on diarrheal disease in Uzbekistan from the MOH for more details]

ZdravPlus

The USAID-funded ZdravPlus project, an extension of the ZdravReform project, has been involved in health-activities in Central Asia since June of 2000. The current project seeks to improve the quality and efficiency of health services in five Central Asian countries including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. In Uzbekistan, it supports the Government of Uzbekistan’s health reform agenda, particularly in the area of strengthening rural primary health care (PHC). Its initial focus was in three pilot rayons of Ferghana Oblast, but its geographic coverage is expanding to encompass other areas of Ferghana Oblast as well as Navoiy, Sirdaryo, Andijon, Karakalpakstan, Khorezm and Surkhandarya oblasts.

The project has three major components, aimed at achieving three core objectives:

- ***Improving the efficiency of resource-use*** by developing and implementing new provider payment systems for primary health care facilities, new management capabilities at the provider and oblast levels, and new health information systems.
- ***Improving the quality of health care*** by updating and strengthening the knowledge and skills of health workers, particularly at the primary health care level, and building a dynamic of improvement through the implementation of specific quality improvement projects that rely on modern quality management principles and techniques.
- ***Redefining patients’ rights and responsibilities*** by educating the population on primary health care topics, encouraging healthy lifestyles and helping people take more responsibility for their own health care.

ZdravPlus and Mercy Corps- CAIP Collaboration

ZdravPlus and Mercy Corps's CAIP and PCI projects work in many of the same communities within the Ferghana Oblast. Over the past year ZdravPlus and Mercy Corps-CAIP have informally collaborated in the following ways:

- When selecting new pilot schools for the ZdravPlus School Health program, ZdravPlus-Ferghana requested that the Ferghana Department of Education select pilot schools from the CAIP Ferghana pilot sites. Only a few of these schools were selected as pilot sites for the School Health program, but in these communities ZdravPlus' school health activities overlap with CAIP sites in Ferghana.
- ZdravPlus works with every Rayon and City Health [Promotion] Center throughout Ferghana Oblast. As some CAIP projects work to improve water, latrines and sewage systems, ZdravPlus provided training to Health Centers on "Community Conversations" for hygiene and sanitation. Mercy Corps CAIP is aware of this, and when they do one of these health-related infrastructure projects ZdravPlus can make sure a Health Center can go to that community and offer health education on hygiene and sanitation.
- Mercy Corps CAIP is aware of the need to repair and remodel SVA to convert them to SVPs. They are also aware that World Bank equipment for clinics in the rural areas only go to SVPs. Although Mercy Corps does not decide what projects a community chooses to work on, ZdravPlus has connected them with the Ferghana Health Project (World Bank project implementation board), and has offered consultation as needed to Mercy Corps's Community Development Officers (CDOs) on this issue.
- Some of the Community Action Groups (CAG) formed under CAIP applied for the ZdravPlus-Counterpart Health Community Grants. Although none were successful in the first round of grants, they are now receiving consultation from ZdravPlus to improve their applications so they may re-apply in the future.

The collaborative efforts between ZdravPlus and Mercy Corps-CAIP thus far have been informal and have not focused on measuring impact. Through the Model Village Project, ZdravPlus and Mercy Corps-CAIP propose to combine efforts in order to measure a decrease in the incidence of diarrhea through their joint activities.

PURPOSE/AIM

To decrease the incidence of diarrhea in --- (to be decided), through application of a small-scale model that includes a community assessment (of the water and health situation), water improvement and health-related activities.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

CAIP/ZdravPlus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ To conduct a community assessment to assess water quality and health concerns to determine the feasibility of implementing a joint water/health project <p>Strategy: Implementation of a survey (or other tool used by CAIP) and focus group discussions (with opinion leaders) to assess the status of clean water availability and hygiene practices, and to assess knowledge and skills concerning the management and treatment of diarrhea.</p>
ZdravPlus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ To review available health statistics on the incidence and causes of diarrhea over the past 5 years in various regions in

	Uzbekistan. [source of data: MOH report]
CAIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide of clean drinking water (Mercy Corps- CAIP) by
ZdravPlus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To train health providers on IMCI, to improve the knowledge and skills of health providers on childhood diseases, particularly on the prevention, management and treatment of diarrhea.
ZdravPlus & CAIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase community knowledge and skills concerning the prevention, management and treatment of diarrhea through community mobilization and IEC activities. <p>Strategy: Training of local SVP staff to organize and conduct community health sessions; establishment of Mother Support Groups; training of patronaj nurses/nurse coordinators to provide relevant information to families; provision of the ZdravPlus School Health Curriculum to local schools; identification of a local NGO to conduct trainings.</p>
ZdravPlus CAIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conduct a follow-up survey in the targeted community to assess knowledge and skills concerning the management and treatment of diarrhea [include time reference].
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To keep track of diarrhea cases through improved reporting system in health clinics (if possible).

INDICATORS

- Incidence of diarrhea
 - Number of new cases of diarrhea in target population/target population
- Access to clean water
 - Percent of target population that has access to clean water (how to measure?)
- Knowledge:
 - Percent of respondents who know the danger signs of when to take a child to a doctor immediately
 - Becomes sicker;
 - Cannot drink or breastfeed;
 - The temperature goes up;
 - Blood in the stool.
 - Percent of respondents who know the causes of diarrhea
 - Poor hygiene
 - Contaminated water
 - Contaminated food
 - Malnutrition
 - Percent of respondents who know signs/symptoms of diarrhea
 - Frequent thin, watery stool
 - Percent of respondents who know how to properly care for a child who has diarrhea
 - Give more to drink and continue eating
 - Infants should get breastmilk more often and for longer
 - Treatment with ORS if dehydrated
 - Take child to the doctor if he/she shows any of the danger signs
- Skills:
 - Percent of respondents who know how to correctly prepare ORS
 - Percent of respondents who know how long to boil water for drinking

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

To be decided

ANTICIPATED PROBLEMS:

- increase in reporting of diarrhea cases
- sample size
- other uncontrollable factors
- data reliability

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- Implementation of baseline and follow-up KAP survey (adapted from current ZdravPlus KAP).
- Review of medical records throughout project time frame. It may be difficult to identify the medical records for the target area where the CAIP intervention will take place....

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Annex 3: Facilitating Market Development

